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DIRECTORATE OF  
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Nigeria: The Ojukwu regime remains determined to insist on greater regional autonomy as its price for keeping the East in the Nigerian union.

Ojukwu boycotted the 9-10 March meeting of the Supreme Military Council. Just prior to this session he was reported to have rejected the main item on the agenda, a draft constitutional decree which apparently went part way toward meeting Ojukwu's position.

[redacted] 25X1  
Ojukwu's regime recently concluded--probably correctly--that Supreme Commander Gowon's federal government does not now have sufficient military power to force a solution on the East. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the East since last fall has succeeded in getting a substantial quantity of arms and ammunition, much of it of Czech manufacture, from European arms dealers. At the same time the region's army has been enlarged and reorganized.]

[redacted] the Eastern government plans to publish later this month a "white paper" outlining how it intends to implement unilaterally the January agreements providing for greater regional autonomy. Earlier Ojukwu gave the federal government until 31 March to act on the accords. The Easterners are said to expect a military attack by the Lagos government at that time.] 25X1

25X1 Ojukwu presently is engaged in an all-out effort to build support at home and abroad for his regime and its policies. [redacted] 25

OAS: [El Salvador's President-elect Sanchez will apparently head his country's delegation to the summit conference in Uruguay next month.]

[Outgoing President Rivera has said he will not go unless renegotiation of the international coffee agreement is on the agenda--an unlikely prospect. His main reason, however, is his reluctance to turn the government over, even for a short time, to the undependable vice president, Francisco Lima.]

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[The only other president-elect who plans to attend is Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, who plans to accompany President Guerrero and will undoubtedly be the real power in the delegation.]

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Britain-Malta: [Talks in London about the withdrawal of British troops from Malta have ended in failure, but British officials still hope for a settlement. Malta's Prime Minister Borg Olivier has refused to agree to Britain's offer of some delay in withdrawing the troops and of increased financial aid. Nevertheless, British officials hope that after a period of stalling Borg Olivier will "reluctantly" accept the offer.]

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India: [Mrs. Gandhi remains the likely choice of the Congress Party parliamentary caucus when it meets to choose a prime minister tomorrow. Most of the state party leaders are backing her, although the stature of some of these within the party may have declined. The only individual openly contesting Mrs. Gandhi for the post--aging party stalwart Morarji Desai who publicly announced his candidacy yesterday--appears to be basing his hopes on a last-minute large-scale revolt among members of Parliament.]

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